

# Beaver County Emergency Services

## Quarterly Newsletter - Volume 7, Issue 1

### SWIFT WATER RESCUE

By David Linkimer



This fall, members of the Beaver County Swift Water Rescue Team, comprised of firefighters from Beaver Falls and New Brighton, and supported by Beaver County Emergency Response Team personnel, were deployed to central and eastern Pennsylvania as part of the Region 13 Task Force.

The Task Force responded at the request of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency during the flooding that resulted from both Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee.



During both deployments, the teams performed multiple missions resulting in numerous victim rescues from dangerous flooding situations.

Deployed personnel received a Certificate of Recognition from the Beaver County Board of Commissioners on October 13, 2011.

At left, pictures from the Tropical Storm Lee Deployment, and pictured below right, the Beaver County Commissioners meeting recognition event, from



left to right: Jeffrey Bolland, David Trzcianka, Gene Miketa, Wesley Hill, Jeff Fuller, Chairman Commissioner Tony Amadio, Gary Knight, Jr., Christopher Chirichetti, Commissioner Joe Spanik, David Linkimer, Victor Spinelli, Chris Ceriani, and Mark Stowe.



### WINTER 2011-2012

- *Swift Water Rescue Response*
- *Beaver Valley River Response Task Force*
- *Director's Corner*
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- *News & Notes*
- *Events Calendar*
- *ESC Christmas Party Invitation*

## BEAVER VALLEY RIVER RESPONSE TASK FORCE

By Jim DeGori, Beaver PD

### What is the Beaver Valley River Response Task Force?

In 2011, Beaver Borough and Center Township formed a task force in conjunction with the United States Coast Guard, Homeland Security, FEMA, and the Port of Pittsburgh. Our goal was to obtain funding for a boat that would provide a platform for emergency response on our rivers. Thus the "Beaver Valley River Response Task Force" came into being.

The Task Force has received \$187,000 in grant funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the state Department of Economic and Community Development to obtain a patrol boat, trailer equipment and an F-250 pick up truck. We are also working with area businesses and corporations along our waterfront to further secure funding to protect the longevity of this project.

### Who comprises the task force?

The task force began as a cooperative effort between the Beaver Borough and Center Township police departments. The task force is currently working in conjunction with the United States Coast Guard to implement training for future security needs in this area. The goal is to have this boat be used as a platform for various operations. Much like homeland security projects sponsored by Region 13, the Port of Pittsburgh had specifications for the boat project. With this boat, in the event of an emergency outside of Beaver County, the United States Coast Guard will have another resource available to handle a wide variety of situations. The Port of Pittsburgh has within its jurisdiction several states as well as Lake Erie. Task force members are attending coordinated training programs with the city of Pittsburgh's River Rescue program and the U.S. Coast Guard, as well as other local, state and federal agencies. An officer on the new task force has a U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Marine license and has training and extensive knowledge of the waterways within the Port of Pittsburgh. This officer will act as a liaison between the various agencies and assist in the further development of the task force.

### How will the task force work?

Currently, in the event of an emergency along the river, an emergency response team has to be called in from outside of Beaver County, which prolongs the response time of law en-

forcement in a crisis. The governing agency on our rivers is the United States Coast Guard. The Beaver Valley River Response Task Force has been working with the coast guard to establish a secondary means of protection and vigilance on our waters. Our intended goal will be providing a local, rapid and coordinated regional response for a variety of law enforcement issues and emergencies that could arise on the river, including catastrophic events or terrorist attacks.

There are many vital businesses and industries located along the river, including the Beaver Valley Power Station in Shippingport and the Conway Yards terminal, which is the fifth largest rail yard in the United States. The Army Corps of Engineers and Waterways Council Inc. estimates that 27 million tons of commerce worth over \$4.34 billion is transported through Beaver County on the Ohio River each year.

The goal of the Beaver Valley River Response Task Force is to discourage crime on the waterways, making them safer for local residents and businesses. The task force will have daytime and nighttime patrols to provide law enforcement coverage on the water for the local chemical plants, oil and chemical storage tanks, and to assist with general waterway improvements and awareness. They will also patrol during large events.

The task force will have a patrol boat and all necessary equipment including medical equipment and thermal imaging and night vision equipment. Patrols will provide law enforcement services needed to address

the gaps in maritime security along the Ohio River in Beaver County. In addition to the law enforcement role, we want to make this boat available to assist agencies with the programs they already have in place in order to have a cooperative working relationship with all emergency response organizations within the county. We are currently striving to make the task force's capabilities better known by promoting awareness of this resource county wide.

For any questions regarding the Task Force, please contact Chief Barry Kramer at Center Township PD or Chief Daniel Madgar at Beaver Borough PD. We will be excited to sit down with your agency and discuss the full picture of this project as well as any needs that have not yet been addressed.





## THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Wesley Hill, Emergency Services Director

Once again the holiday season is with us. My hopes are that you all had a Happy Thanksgiving and that everyone is looking forward to Christmas.

The early weather forecasts that I've seen for the upcoming winter season don't sound too bad, but we all have heard that before. I would suggest that we hope for the best but prepare for the worst, a familiar sentiment in emergency services.

Severe winter weather planning should include emergency preparations for your car, home, and business. Keep extra supplies like blankets, radios, flashlights, batteries, water and non perishable food handy should you become stuck in a storm or power outage. Also, keep an eye out for those with special needs and

check on friends and neighbors who may need extra assistance during severe weather. The websites [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) and [www.readypa.org](http://www.readypa.org) are excellent sources to consult for more information on personal and occupational preparedness.

We at Emergency Services have already started planning for the upcoming year. Taking precedence is the biennial federally evaluated FirstEnergy Beaver Valley Power Station nuclear exercise scheduled for June of 2012. Starting in January, our county Emergency Planning & Training staff in conjunction with Emergency Response staff from BVPS will begin reviewing municipal plans and training local Emergency Operations Center staff and municipal emergency

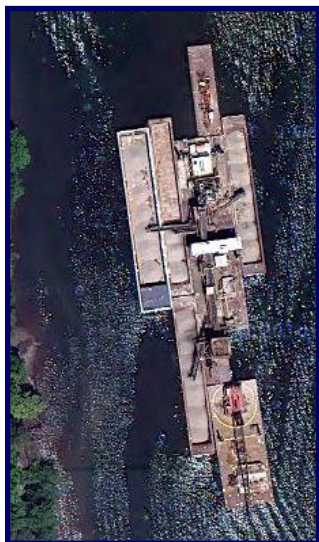
responders.

This is always a busy time, and a good portion of our days and nights will be devoted to exercise readiness, but in 2012, we also look forward to continuing our planning and training schedule to include ongoing tabletop exercises with local schools, utilities and industry.

Hopefully during the holiday season you have the opportunity to visit family and friends that perhaps you haven't seen for awhile. As I always request, please take time this season to remember our troops who will not make it home for the holidays. Let's remember to think of their families as we spend time with ours. I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

## DREDGER TABLETOP EXERCISE

By Schuyler Mu



Emergency Services hosted a tabletop exercise on November 18<sup>th</sup> centered around a multi-hazard incident on a local river dredger. Hanson Aggregates requested the exercise in order to walk through incident response on their Thaddus Carr Dredge. The dredge has been located on the Ohio River near Baden Borough but will be operating starting next March off shore near Freedom Borough.

Attending the tabletop were Hanson Aggregates representatives, 9-1-1 Dispatchers, Fire, EMS and Fish & Boat Commission personnel and members of the county's technical rescue, water rescue and river response teams. As Deputy Director Kevin Joy unfolded the scenario, he asked dispatchers and responders to talk through their probable actions at each stage of the re-

sponse. Participants were able to pose questions to the dredger reps and vice versa, enabling a better understanding of the dredge operations, its on board capabilities, and what the county and local agencies have to offer in terms of fire & EMS response as well as water & technical rescue operations. Additionally, representatives were able to share valuable information regarding the materials and fire hazards that are present on the dredger. The importance of establishing Incident Command and coordinating response efforts through the dispatch center were among the points emphasized.

Once the craft resumes operations in March, a functional exercise may be planned to allow responders firsthand experience on the dredge.

Facilities interested in participating in an emergency response tabletop are asked to contact Victor Spinelli. Victor will work with your agency to develop an appropriate scenario for your site and coordinate with local responders for full exercise participation. He can be reached at 724-775-1700 or [vspinelli@beavercountypa.gov](mailto:vspinelli@beavercountypa.gov).

## MUNICIPAL COORDINATOR UPDATES

By David Linkimer

It has been a very productive year for Beaver County's Municipal Emergency Management Coordinators. Many Municipal Emergency Operations plans have been updated, and many Coordinators have earned their Certifications. Laptops were distributed for all municipal EOCs to improve communications and make plan updates easier. We still have a lot of work to do to meet the standards established by the State, but we have taken some huge steps forward in 2011 and plan to continue that progress in 2012.

On November 21<sup>st</sup> we held our annual Municipal EMC appreciation dinner at the Rochester VFW. We hope all who attended had a good time and enjoyed the steak dinner. This dinner, sponsored by First Energy, had traditionally been open only to those municipalities involved in the federally evaluated Beaver Valley Power Station response drill. However, Director Hill has opened the dinner to all Coordinators to show our appreciation for the work that you do for your communities. If you were not able to join us this year, hopefully we'll see you next year.

### EMA Coordinator Certification

In November, PEMA released an updated certification program for County and Municipal Coordinators that

reflects many of the recent changes in Emergency Management. Current Coordinators are encouraged to finish up their current certification level in the old program before the new program takes effect in November of 2012. If you have any questions about the Certification Program, please contact our office; we are here to help. Remember that Certification is required under Title 35 for ALL Municipal Coordinators.

Since our last newsletter, three of our local Coordinators have completed their Basic certification and one has completed the Advanced certification.

- Jeff McKay, Monaca Borough, EMC Advanced Certification
- Larry Morley, New Brighton Borough, EMC Basic Certification
- Mark New, Independence Township, EMC Basic Certification
- Vic Spinelli, Ambridge Borough, EMC Basic Certification

### 2012 Municipal Coordinator Training

We are in the process of developing a training schedule for 2012. We will continue to offer the courses needed to attain Certification, but we are also always looking for ideas for other training topics and Quarterly Training activities. Please let us know if you have any suggestions or ideas as we want these sessions to be as

beneficial to our Municipal Coordinators as possible. We are excited that we are now able to offer access to our Quarterly Training sessions live via GoToMeeting, an online web conferencing tool. When feasible, we will offer as many of our sessions via webinar as possible.

### 2012 Drill

The Biennial Beaver Valley Power Station evaluated exercise is coming up in 2012. Out of sequence evaluations will be occurring in May, with the full evaluated exercise occurring on Tuesday, June 19. Please start looking at your calendars for 2012 to plan training for your EOC Staff in April or May. For Coordinators of Municipalities who do not participate in the exercise, if you are interested in observing either the training or the actual exercise, please let us know.

*We look forward to continuing to work with each and every one of you.*

*For more information and assistance, please contact Dave Linkimer or Jessica Davis at [dlinkimer@beavercountypa.gov](mailto:dlinkimer@beavercountypa.gov), [jdavis@beavercountypa.gov](mailto:jdavis@beavercountypa.gov), or 724-775-1700.*



**Receiving their certifications from Director Wesley Hill, from top to bottom: Jeff McKay (Advanced), Larry Morley (Basic), Victor Spinelli (Basic), and Deputy Director Kevin Joy (Basic).**

# EMS UPDATES

By Eric Brewer  
EMS Coordinator  
ebrewer@beavercountypa.gov  
724-728-3934 X 2503



## EMS Status Checks:

Within the last month or so, EMS providers may have been asked for “your status” when you were on an EMS call. As per the request of some of the EMS Chiefs/Supervisors, the 9-1-1 center has instituted a status check system for the safety of EMS crews. After 15 minutes of a unit being on scene of a call, your unit number will start to flash and no-

tify the dispatcher to do a status check. If there is no response from the unit after several attempts, we will call the number of the residence or location of the call, and if there is no response from that phone number, we notify the police to respond to the scene. As with every EMS call, we notify the police of an ambulance call at the same time that the ambulance is

dispatched. However, some police departments do not respond to EMS calls. Surprisingly, we’ve noticed that some crews are not carrying portables with them on calls and therefore are not answering the radio in our attempts to call. This has been identified as a great safety issue throughout EMS. One method that has been practiced is when a crew goes to get the stretcher or when the patient is loaded in the unit, a crew member radios to advise 911 of the call status, for example: “Unit 12 we’re OK and will be transporting shortly.” There will be some exceptions, however **please carry a portable radio on calls.**

## Mark 1 kits

I am aware that the Mark 1 kits that were distributed to each service are starting to expire or already have expired. These were initially funded by the Region 13 Task Force, not by each county. There are currently talks to replace these kits. In the meantime, it is up to each individual service as to what they want to do with the existing kits. Also keep in mind that these kits are for the personal safety of the EMS crew, not for the patient. As one of the docs said, “I’d rather have an expired medication as opposed to no medication”.

## EMS Call STATS of Beaver County 9-1-1

Busiest hour of the day for EMS calls	1400 hrs to 1500 hrs
Slowest hour of the day for EMS calls	0500 hrs to 0600 hrs
Busiest hours for EMS calls	1000 hrs to 2000 hrs
Busiest day of the week for EMS calls	Saturday
Slowest day of the week for EMS calls	Wednesday
Most events dispatched are for “general sick” person calls followed by “breathing problems”	

## EMS Dates

- Beaver County EMS Meeting: February 7, Beaver County Emergency Services, 10 am
- Region 13 MMRS Meeting: January 12, Allegheny County EOC, 400 N. Lexington Street, Pittsburgh, 15208
- Region 13 MMRS Meeting: March 8, EMSI, 1002 Church Hill Road, Pittsburgh, 15205

# NEWS & NOTES

- **Pelco by Schneider Electric** filmed a promotional video at **Emergency Services** on their Digital Sentry System which is being used in the 9-1-1 Center to protect the county through a video surveillance network. Several county and local staff members and responders participated in the video, which can be seen at [www.pelco.com](http://www.pelco.com) or on You Tube by searching for “Beaver County Digital Sentry”. Disc copies of the case study are also available at Emergency Services.
- The **20th Anniversary Emergency Services Golf Outing** was held on Monday, September 19th at the Club at Shadow Lakes. Thanks go out again to all of our sponsors and participants for another fun outing.
- Emergency Services Staff donated **\$175 to the Yellow Ribbon Girls** (<http://yellowribbongirls.com>) by paying \$1 to wear blue jeans each Friday this past summer. Staff who participated in the spring Biggest Loser weight loss challenge will be donating close to **\$100 to the KDKA turkey fund to be matched by PNC Bank** for every pound put back on since the competition ended in March. While that may seem like a lot of pounds gained back, most participants did not exceed their pre-challenge weight, and a few have continued to lose.



## DECEMBER 2011

Su	M	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- **7th:** Well-Site Emergency First Responder Training, Keystone Simulation Education Center, 6:30 pm
- **7th:** County Constables Association Meeting, 7 pm
- **8th:** CART Meeting, 6:30 pm
- **14th:** Firefighters Association Meeting, 7 pm
- **15th:** Hazmat Refresher Training for Law Enforcement, 1 pm
- **16th:** Support County Lunch, Noon
- **16th:** Beaver Valley FOP Lodge #4 Christmas Dinner, Franzee's, 6 pm
- **21st:** First day of Winter
- **23rd:** Emergency Services Christmas Party, Noon - 4 pm
- **25th:** Christmas Day
- **26th - 27th:** Christmas Holiday, County Offices Closed

## JANUARY 2012

Su	M	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

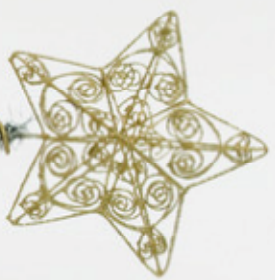
- **1st:** New Year's Day
- **2nd:** New Year's Holiday, County Offices Closed
- **4th:** Hazmat Team 700 Training, Garage 6:30 pm
- **10th - 12th:** PA Preparedness Leadership Training, Part 1 of 2
- **11th:** Firefighters Association Meeting, 7 pm
- **12th:** Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association Meeting, 5 pm
- **16th:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, County Offices Closed
- **18th:** Chiefs of Police Association Meeting, Location TBD, Noon
- **18th:** Hazmat Team 700 Training, Garage 6:30 pm
- **23th:** Beaver Valley FOP Lodge #4 Meeting, Rochester VFW, 7 pm
- **31st - Feb 2nd:** PA Preparedness Leadership Training, Part 2 of 2

## FEBRUARY 2012

Su	M	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

- **1st:** Hazmat Team 700 Training, Garage 6:30 pm
- **7th:** EMS Providers Meeting, 10 am
- **8th:** Firefighters Association Meeting, 7 pm
- **14th:** VOAD Meeting, 10 am
- **14th:** LEPC Meeting, NOVA Chemicals, 1 pm
- **15th:** Chiefs of Police Association Meeting, Location TBD, Noon
- **15th:** Hazmat Team 700 Training, Garage 6:30 pm
- **20th:** Presidents Day, County Offices Closed
- **22nd - 23rd:** PEMA Quarterly Training, Butler County
- **23rd:** Beaver Valley FOP Lodge #4 Meeting, Rochester VFW, 7 pm

ALL EVENTS ARE LOCATED AT THE BEAVER COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES CENTER, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED



# YOU'RE INVITED!

Beaver County  
Emergency Services'  
2011 Christmas Party  
Friday, December 23  
Noon to 4 PM



351 14TH STREET

AMBRIDGE, PA 15003

724-775-1700



## EMERGENCY SERVICES

351 14th Street  
Ambridge, PA 15003  
724-775-1700

BEAVER COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
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ADMINISTRATION  
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**Want to contribute?**  
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The Beaver County Emergency Services Newsletter is created and published by the Beaver County Emergency Services Center (BCESC).

The BCESC is a division of Beaver County government, under the authority of the Beaver County Board of Commissioners. The BCESC manages the county's 9-1-1 dispatch operations center and also serves as the county's Emergency Management office, working under the direction of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) on emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response, and recovery. The BCESC is also the home of the county's Hazmat Team 700, the Public Safety Commission, the Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC), and is the contact point for many other public safety organizations, including EMS, Fire, Police, and Municipal EMA services.

The BCESC works in conjunction with a number of county and offsite agencies to provide comprehensive public safety guidance and emergency support to the residents and businesses of Beaver County.

Beaver County Emergency Services  
351 14th Street  
Ambridge, PA 15003

